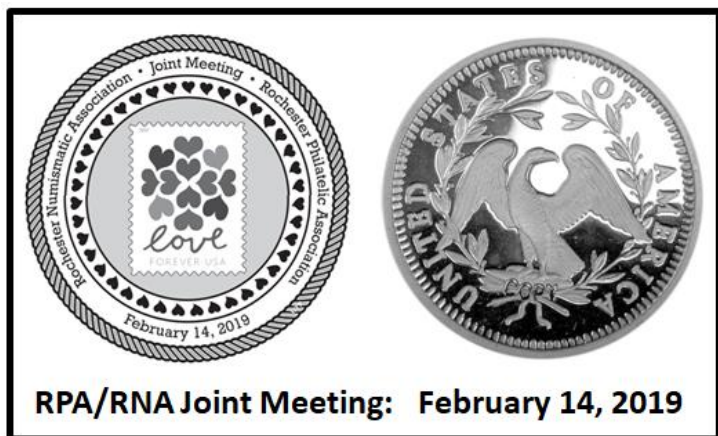




Joint RPA/RNA Meeting
President's Message • Upcoming Meetings/Shows
Mauritius – The Play • ROPEX 2019
Messages on our Mail
Brad Sterling • Jim Sands

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Editor: Fred Haynes (fredmhaynes55@gmail.com)

The Rochester Philatelic Association, PO Box 10206 Brighton Station, Rochester, NY 14610 <http://www.rpastamps.org>



By Fred Haynes

February 14th may have been Valentine's Day, but for more than 70 stamp and coin collectors in Rochester it was also time for a joint meeting of the Rochester Philatelic Association and the Rochester Numismatic Association. The venue was the Jewish Community Center in Brighton, the regular meeting location for the RPA.

RPA President Larry Rausch called the meeting to order after members had some time to become re-acquainted and share collecting stories. It had been almost 18 months since the last joint meeting of the two associations. After a bit of business from both Larry and RNA member Chip Scoppa, the meeting moved on to the main attraction.

The highlight of the evening was the combined stamp, coin and travel program presented by RPA and RNA member Steve Eisinger. Steve visited Japan for 11 days last September and combined his adventures while there with his collecting interest into a program simply entitled "Hiking Japan: Its stamps and coins."

The trip was sponsored by the National Geographic Expeditions and the highlight was five days and 35 miles of mountainous hiking along the Nakahechi Trail of the [Kumano Kodo Pilgrimage Route](#). The trip was fully guided and Steve shared scenic views and

historic locations from the full adventure. He closed with a bit of input on the countries stamps and coins. Did you know that 日本, as scripted on the country's stamps and coins, translates to "Land of the Rising Sun."

Those present were offered the opportunity to acquire a souvenir of the event. George Fekete took advantage of the special date of the meeting to design the front of a commemorative coin (left side of title box). The reverse is a stock item from the North American Mint, who will be producing the medals. Those present on 14th were able to order them, but if you missed that opportunity you may place an order with Chip Scoppa (cscoppa@rochester.rr.com). Two versions are available, a silver plated version for ~\$10, and a .999 silver coin for ~\$25. If you are interested, do not delay as Chip will be placing the order on Thursday February 21st. This limited edition coin may not be available after that date.



George also designed a cachet dedicated to the event. The cachet heart is comprised of overlapping renditions of the commemorative coin. Each club was given one for its library and several others were auctioned off to benefit the two clubs.

The meeting also included a spirited called auction by the coin club. Meanwhile two tables of philatelic material were available for silent auction bidding as well. See meeting photo on page 2.



President's Message

Fellow RPA members,

Happy Valentine's Day: I hope yours was enjoyable. RPA joined with RNA on this special day for a joint meeting and a wonderful talk on Hiking thru Japan by Steve Eisinger. At my count 72 members and guests were present. We thank George Fekete for preparing a cachet cover for this event and providing covers for auction and door prizes.

At our next two meetings we'll "judge" the USPS 2018 issues (always a fun interactive event) and then learn about the "[The New USPS Media Web Site](#)". And just around the corner is the 2019 ROPEX stamp show on May 17-18.

Lastly, we still have a couple of meeting dates in need of talks so if you have a subject to present and need assistance in preparing it we are here to help.

See you at our next meeting,

Larry Rausch, RPA President

Upcoming RPA Meetings

Thurs. Feb. 28th [Linn's US Stamp Popularity Poll](#)
RPA members cast the club vote

Thurs. March 14th [The New USPS Media Web Site](#)
by Tom Fortunato

Thurs. March 28th – No meeting, facility unavailable

Thurs. April 11th - Bohemia and Moravia
by Rich Spinelli

Thurs. May 9th - Essays *by John Flannery III*

Thurs. May 23rd - TBA

Thurs. June 13th, June 27th - TBA

We have only one meeting in March, but will meet twice in April, May and June. Meetings begin at 7 PM at the JCC in Brighton. The first half hour is for silent auction, show/trade among members, and general member interaction. The night's program begins at 7:30 PM.

Rochester Stamp & Coin Show

Sunday February 24th, 10:00am – 4:00pm

North Greece Fireman's Field

Rt. 390N – Exit 26 – 3666 Latta Rd., Rochester

Contact – John Stoltz, McCloud Stamps & Coins

jstoltz@rochester.rr.com, 585-507-3533

Other Regional Stamp Shows/Bourses

March 9-10 Buffalo (BUFPEX) Hours: 10-5

VFW Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Ave.

Contact: George Gates, gghg53@aol.com,

Phone - 716-633-8358

ROPEX National Stamp Show

Fri. & Sat., May 17-18, 2019 Hours 10-6, 10-3

Greater Canandaigua Civic Center
25 North Bloomfield Road

\$2 Daily Admission, Under 18 Free
Free Parking

150th and 50th Anniversary Themes:
Transcontinental Railroad, Man on the Moon



Visit our [online calendar](#) for even more area show news

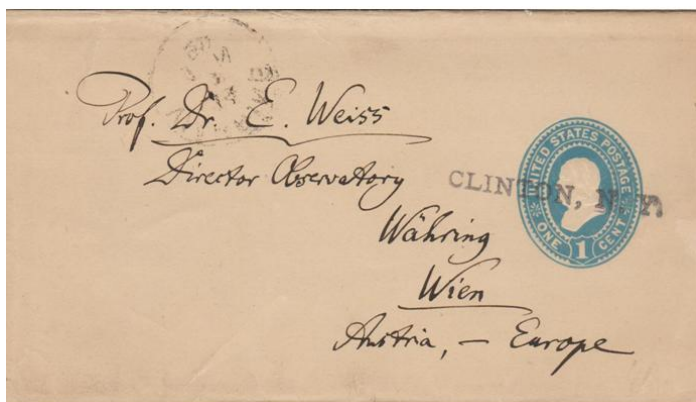


The meeting room at the JCC was packed for the joint RPA/RNA meeting on Valentine's Day. Photo by G. Fekete

**Professor Dr.
Edmund Weiss**
by Larry Rausch



As many of you know, I am always on the lookout for covers that provide an interesting Postal History story. Even more so if the postal story relates to western New York. The postmark and addressee of this cover provides such a story. The cover was postmarked from Clinton, NY in 1890 with a straight line cancellation. The blue one cent stamped envelope is listed in Scott's as U294 with a Benjamin Franklin silhouette and was issued in 1887.



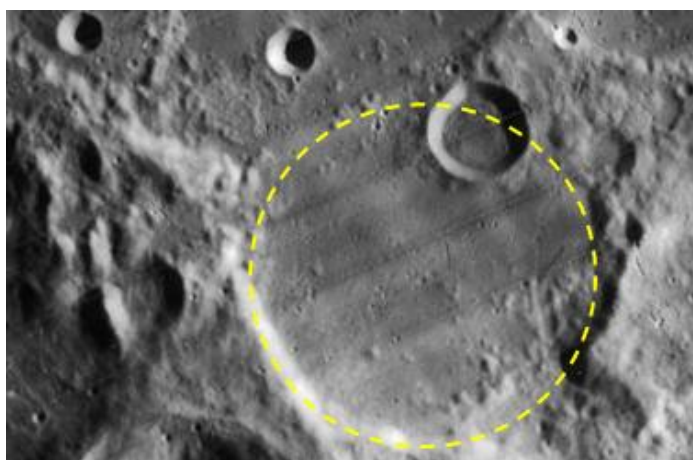
Edmund Weiss was born on August 26, 1837 in Austria. He studied mathematics, physics, and astronomy at the University of Vienna, Austria. In 1858, he was appointed an assistant at the Vienna Observatory. Dr. Weiss received his PhD in 1860 and became a professor at the University of Vienna. He married Adelaide Fenzl in 1872 and they raised seven children.

In the 1870's, Vienna astronomers began construction of a new observatory in the hills of Währing, Austria just outside Vienna. Weiss was sent to Great Britain and the United States to visit leading telescope manufacturers. A 27-inch refracting telescope was ordered from Howard Grubb of Dublin, Ireland. At that time this was the world's largest refracting telescope. Even today this 27-inch refracting telescope is the 12th largest in the world.

With the delivery of the telescope in 1878 and the dedication of the new Vienna Observatory in 1879, Weiss was appointed as the new Director. He retired in 1910 after 31 years, primarily studying comets. Dr. Weiss died on June 21, 1917.



The Kuffner Observatory in Vienna now hosts the 27" Grubb refracting telescope that was under the direction of Edmund Weiss from 1879-1910.



The Weiss crater on the Moon is named in his honor. This Lunar Orbiter 4 image shows the 66 km diameter lunar impact Weiss Crater (outlined in yellow). The crater has been partially filled by lava and the region was impacted by several smaller subsequent craters. The smaller craters range from 5-17 km in diameter and overprint the initial impact event.

It is interesting to consider why there would be a letter from Clinton, NY (located 9 miles west of Utica, NY) written to Dr. Weiss in Austria in the late 19th century. Clinton is home to Hamilton College. This provided insight as to who may have written the letter since Hamilton has a course of study in Astronomy.



Two of ten cactus flower designs issued by the USPS February 15th in booklet form.

Mauritius: The Play

At Blackfriars Theatre



Next month, philately will be front and center at one of Rochester's performing art centers, the Blackfriars Theatre in downtown Rochester. The local repertory company will perform the play "Mauritius" from March 22nd until April 7th at its cozy little theatre on East Main Street. The theme of the play is rather simple and perhaps best described as taken directly from the [Blackfriars webpage](#):

Stamp collecting is far more risky than you think. After their mother's death, two estranged half-sisters discover a book of rare stamps that may include the crown jewel for collectors. One sister tries to collect on the windfall, while the other resists for sentimental reasons. In this gripping tale, a seemingly simple sale becomes dangerous when three seedy, high-stakes collectors enter the sisters' world, willing to do anything to claim the rare find as their own.

The crown jewel stamp, of course, is the extremely valuable 2p blue Mauritius stamp issued in 1847 and depicted in the title box of this story. The stamp is one of the first British Empire stamps issued outside of Great Britain. Very few are in existence. They are referred to as The Post Office Mauritius stamps as

they differ from subsequent stamps by bearing the words "Post Office" rather than "Postage Paid".



This famous cover hosting both the Mauritius 1d red and the 2d Blue auctioned for about \$4 million in Zurich on November 3rd, 1993. At that time this was the highest price ever paid for a single philatelic item.

American playwright Theresa Rebeck wrote Mauritius in 2006 and the play premiered in the Boston Center for the Arts in October of that same year. Its New York City premier was a mere year later, October 4th, 2007. Now, twelve years later Mauritius is set for its Rochester premier! Brian Coughlin will direct the Rochester rendition.

The full schedule of all eleven showings and ticket information can be found on the [Blackfriars Theatre webpage](#). Blackfriars calls themselves a mid-sized professional theatre. They have entertained Rochester audiences for over 65 years. Their mission is to "enrich, entertain, and inspire our community through exceptional theatrical arts while engaging local talent."

ROPEX 2019 Planning Continues

As of mid-February 84 competitive frames have been reserved (out of 100) and 8 dealers have confirmed they will be attending ROPEX, Friday and Saturday, May 17-18, at the Canandaigua Civic Center. [ROPEX Webpage link](#)

Dealers typically do not confirm their attendance until much closer to show time, but we may expect numbers a little lighter than usual. We know that long-time ROPEX dealer "Tom's Stamps" will not be coming, and possibly others, as many are slowing down or outright retiring. On the bright side the exhibitor turnout has been better than expected this early, thanks especially to many club members.

We were pleased to learn that the US Postal Service is issuing a triptych of stamps honoring the transcontinental railroad and famous "golden spike". Its 150th anniversary was chosen a theme for ROPEX 2019, along with the 50th anniversary of Man on the Moon. A stamp will surely commemorate that anniversary, but no official news from USPS has been announced yet.



To be issued May 10th, one week ahead of ROPEX and in time to be incorporated into our show cachet.

MESSAGES ON OUR MAIL



An RPA
Presentation
by Florence Wright

Most people don't even notice the cancellation or postmark applied to their mail by the post office at the time of mailing. Unless it is necessary to determine the date a letter or parcel was mailed, the rest of any postmark is generally ignored, except by folks like Florence Wright. At our first meeting of 2019, Florence shared with us a few dozen of her favorite special or pictorial cancellations that included messages, slogans, event announcements, or just plain interesting statements.

Her presentation was not about the straight or wavy lines, or the circular date stamps, although she noted there was certainly philatelic interest there. Rather, Florence was interested in the "rest of the cancellation."

She opened her presentation with probably the event most commonly incorporated into cancellations. When Queen Elizabeth was crowned on June 2nd, 1953, the entire British Commonwealth went about designing and deploying special cancellations. "Long Live the Queen" was a common slogan, particularly apt I guess given that she remains in her position some 66 years later.



Here is an interesting one, dated August 4, 1980, the 80th birthday of the Queen Elizabeth's mother (The Queen Mother). The "Crown" noted in the cancel actually refers to the silver coin to the left which was minted at the same time. But Florence did wonder why an Isle of Man cancel about a British item is used with a Scotland stamp and mailed in Glasgow, Scotland?

Cancellations have often been used to advertise events and Florence had a number to show us. Here are a couple of them.



Melbourne, Australia must have been celebrating "Visit Your Schools Education Week" at the same time as the Queen's coronation in England.



Madame Curie Daffodil Day is March 27th in England, but it is a bit strange not to see some sort of stamp under this commemorative cancel.

Other slogans included in cancellations were messages from the post office.



The gold mining town of Timmins in northern Ontario reminds everyone that "Your Postman Sells Stamps".



Australia is warning everyone to "Please Post Christmas Mail This Week" on a postmark dated December 19th.

If you want to see more of the "messages" incorporated into postal cancellations, the rest of Florence's presentation can be viewed from the Meetings page of the RPA website. LINK: <http://www.rpastamps.org/presentations/messagesonmail.pdf>

Brad Sterling

**December 28, 1940 -
December 18, 2018**



Former RPA president Brad Sterling passed away December 18, 2018, ten days before his 78th birthday. Brad served as club president in 1985-86 and also as vice president from 1989-91.

Brad collected a number of philatelic specialties, including the U.S. Americana Series, but his real philatelic love was attending First Day ceremonies with his friends – Rick Kase, Lisa Doiron, Chuck Schultz, Carl Miller, and anyone else who came along. Like Rick, Brad enjoyed creating unusual first-day items. Among his favorite productions was a pair of wooden shoes canceled with the 29c flower stamps issued at ROPEX in 1991. These stamps featured a tulip.

Brad was a Wegmans retiree and a proud veteran of the U.S. Army. He was active in the American Legion post in Canandaigua, where he lived in his later years.

Survivors include his children, Mark and Dawn, three grandchildren, two brothers and a sister.



For many years Brad managed the ROPEX hospitality room. He always greeted visitors personally and tried to find out in advance if some guest had a favorite snack or soft drink, which he then made sure to have on hand. In 1992 our banquet speaker, Tom Corette, was a Pepsi drinker, and Brad made sure to pour this libation for him with plenty of ceremony.

By Ada Prill

Jim Sands

**February 14, 1944 -
January 4, 2019**



Jim Sands was a member of the Rochester Philatelic Association and the Precancel Stamp Society. He is survived by wife Carol and his children Jamie and Jennifer. Jim was a proud retiree of the Rochester Fire department where he served over 35 years. In retirement he enjoyed his two hobbies, woodworking and stamp collecting. He loved working on the annual ROPEX stamp show. He was our expert in putting up exhibition frames. Not just a 'boss', Jim worked harder than anybody carting and assembling hundreds of frames - even when his health was iffy.

I got to know Jim very well when we took a road trip to the 2018 PSS Convention in Columbus Ohio. He had been fighting cancer for a few years and wanted to live a normal active life and enjoy stamps as long as he could. We had fun and he was an inspiration.

Jim collected classic precancels - anything before 1922. He made contacts and friends around the world to track them down. We will miss him up here.

By Charles Adrion

